

Australian Bureau of Statistics

1386.0 - What's New in Regional Statistics, Jun 2010

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Includes: An article on Regional Population Growth and information on the next Census of Population and Housing.



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Other News and Contacts

Includes: News from the National Statistical Service on their upcoming conference as well as data quality. There is also information on the new Geography Portal and the latest information paper on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard.

Welcome from the Director



WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'What's New in Regional Statistics' newsletter.

What's in this issue?

This issue contains a feature article, A Faster Way to Find Data for Your Region, which looks at the recently released National Regional Profile, a comprehensive product with a wealth of information about regions within our cities, country towns and rural areas. It includes an overview of the exciting new additions to the product which will be of much interest to new and existing audiences.

The other information in this newsletter is grouped under category headings. Under Economy you will find key data from the two latest releases on sources of Estimates of Personal Income and Wage and Salary Earners, both containing small area level data. Population and People includes highlights from the latest Regional Population Growth release as well as information relating to the 2011 Census. The <u>Industry</u> section presents key findings from the Agricultural Commodities and Australian Wine and Grape Industry releases. Finally the <u>Environment and Energy</u> section includes the latest Water Use on Australian farms release, and a look at the Socio-Economic Context for the Murray-Darling Basin.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Lisa Conolly

Director Regional Statistics Branch

Economy



RECENT RELEASES

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07

Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07

ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME FOR SMALL AREA, TIME SERIES, 2003-04 TO 2006-07

Released on 17 December 2009, <u>Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07</u> (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) contains estimates of the sources of personal income, including Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investments, Superannuation and annuities and Other income. The data includes the number of persons, total income and average income from each of those sources.

Examples of the data available are:

- Income from Investments was the second largest income source in 2006-07, representing around one tenth of personal income (\$53 billion). The largest source of income, comprising 78% of the total, was from Wages and salaries (\$392 billion).
- The regions with the highest average Own unincorporated business income in 2006-07 were in the Perth Statistical Local Areas of Peppermint Grove (\$71,647) and Cottesloe (\$69,795).
- In 2006-07, outside of the capital cities, seven of the ten regions with the largest average Investment incomes were in Queensland, with the largest in the Statistical Local Area of Main Beach-South Stradbroke in Queensland (\$25,803).

The publication's main features presents an overview of the sources of personal income for Australia, highlighting some of the variations in growth rates. It examines regional growth and decline in sources of income, with a specific look at Own unincorporated business income as a particular case of regional variation.

Data for Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas can be found in the Downloads tab of this release.

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WAGE AND SALARY EARNER STATISTICS FOR SMALL AREAS, TIME SERIES, 2003-04 TO 2006-07

Released on 12 March 2010, <u>Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07</u> (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) contains detailed data relating to Wage and salary earners. This is a more detailed breakdown of the data for Wage and salary earners released in 'Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas', discussed above. Files containing cross-classifications by age, sex, occupation and income for Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas can be

found in the Downloads tab of this release. This product contains a main features which illustrates how the data can be used to explore the characteristics of regions at the small area level. A summary of key findings for each state and territory at the small area level is also provided.

In Australia, average income from Wages and salaries grew at an average annual growth rate of 4.5% from 2003-04 to 2006-07, reaching \$42,081 in 2006-07.

Table 1 below shows an example of the Statistical Local Area data available. The table shows the highest average Wage and salary income Statistical Local Areas in 2006-07. Nine of the top ten Statistical Local Areas were in Sydney.

Table 1: Top ten average Wage and salary incomes 2006-07

Statistical Local Area	Average Wage and salary income
Mosman (A) (NSW)	\$106,397
Woollahra (A) (NSW)	\$85,225
Hunters Hill (A) (NSW)	\$77,798
North Sydney (A) (NSW)	\$72,939
Ku-ring-gai (A) (NSW)	\$71,371
Leichhardt (A) (NSW)	\$68,703
Lane Cove (A) (NSW)	\$67,777
Willoughby (C) (NSW)	\$67,687
Manly (A) (NSW)	\$66,365
Bayside (C) Brighton (Vic.)	\$66,283
	Mosman (A) (NSW) Woollahra (A) (NSW) Hunters Hill (A) (NSW) North Sydney (A) (NSW) Ku-ring-gai (A) (NSW) Leichhardt (A) (NSW) Lane Cove (A) (NSW) Willoughby (C) (NSW) Manly (A) (NSW)

Future updates

The above data is sourced from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), using aggregated and confidentialised Personal Income Tax data. The data is obtained from the ATO 18 months after the end of the financial year. This time period is necessary to ensure that ABS receives a comprehensive data set, since the vast majority of forms are lodged within an eighteen month time period after the end of the financial year. The next update of this data will be for the 2007-08 financial year, and data is currently being requested by ABS such that it can be processed for release later in 2010.

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Population and People



POPULATION AND PEOPLE

RECENT RELEASES

Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09

2011 Census of Population and Housing

REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH, AUSTRALIA, 2008-09

Released on 30 March 2010, <u>Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09</u> (cat. no. 3218.0) contains estimates of resident populations of areas of Australia as at 30 June each year from 2001 to 2009. The areas for which estimates are provided are Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Sub Divisions (SSDs), Statistical Districts and states and territories of Australia, according to the 2009 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

Some of the key findings from this publication are below.

POPULATION CHANGE

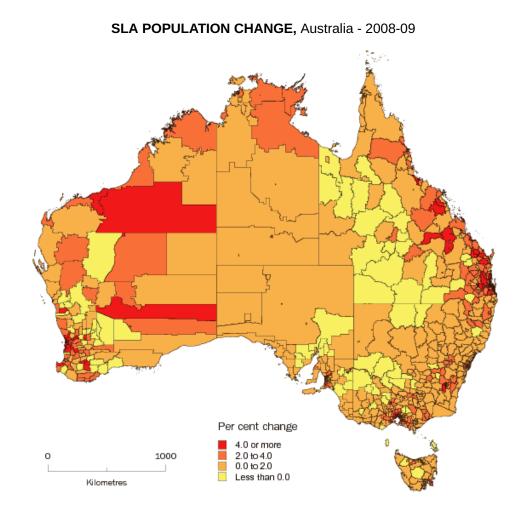
Australia's estimated resident population (ERP) reached 21.96 million at 30 June 2009, increasing by

456,700 people since 30 June 2008. The 2008-09 growth rate of 2.1% was higher than the average annual growth rate of 1.8% for the five years to June 2009.

All states and territories experienced population growth in 2008-09 with the largest population increases continuing to be recorded in Australia's three most populous states. New South Wales experienced the greatest growth (up by 119,500 people), followed by Queensland (116,500) and Victoria (116,300). This was the first year since 2000-01 that any state overtook Queensland as the largest growing state.

For the third consecutive year, Western Australia recorded the fastest population growth rate at 3.1% in 2008-09, ahead of Queensland (2.7%), the Northern Territory (2.5%) and Victoria (2.2%). The remaining states and territories had population growth rates below the Australian average, with Tasmania experiencing the slowest growth at 1.1%.

Population growth continued to be most prominent in inner city areas, outer suburbs, urban infill areas and along the coast. Areas that have seen decline include inland, rural areas that have been affected by drought in the last few years or mining areas.



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2011 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

What is the Census?

The Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical operation undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It aims to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census Night, their key characteristics, and the dwellings in which they live.

The scope of the Census is all people in Australia on Census Night, other than foreign diplomats and their families. Visitors to Australia are counted regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. More information on the Census can be found in How Australia Takes a Census, 2006 (cat. no. 2903.0), which will be updated in the lead up to the 2011 Census.

The Census is conducted every five years. The next Census, Australia's 16th, is planned for the night of 9 August 2011.

Making your community count

In the preparation for the 2011 Census the Australian Bureau of Statistics is seeking the advice and support of community focused and government organisations. The <u>2011 Census Local and Regional Engagement Strategy</u> (cat.no. 2911.0.55.001) discusses how your organisation can be involved.

2011 Census News

The content of the 2011 Census has been announced. Find out more in <u>Census of Population and Housing:</u> <u>Nature and Content, 2011</u> (cat.no.2008.0)

The 2011 Census results will be released on the new geography standard, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The discussion paper, <u>Census of Population and Housing - ABS Views on 2011 Census Output Geography, 2011</u> (cat. no. 2911.0.55.002) was released on 9 March 2010, which invited comments on the proposed implementation plans. Submissions have now closed, however, this release contains useful information on the geographical areas for which data from the 2011 Census will be available.

What else is happening?

Census Test 2010

During June 2010, the ABS will be conducting the Census Test 2010 in selected areas of New South Wales and South Australia. Keep a lookout on the ABS website for more information.

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Industry



RECENT RELEASES

Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2008-09

Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2009

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA, 2008-09

Released on 9 April 2010, <u>Agricultural Commodities</u>, <u>Australia</u>, <u>2008-09</u> (cat. no. 7121.0) contains final estimates for the main commodities collected in the 2008-09 Agricultural Survey. Included are statistics on land use, industry activity, crop and horticultural area and production, and livestock numbers. Data is available for a range of sub-state geographic levels, including Natural Resource Management (NRM) region and Statistical Division (SD).

Some key findings from the publication were:

- The 2008-09 Agricultural Survey revealed that the number of businesses undertaking agricultural activity had fallen to a total of 136,000 businesses. This represents a 3% decrease compared with 2007-08.
- The beef farming industry remained the largest sector in 2008-09, comprising nearly a third of businesses classified to the agriculture industry.
- The number of non-agricultural businesses which undertook agricultural activity during 2008-09 remained steady at an estimated 15,000 businesses.

AUSTRALIAN WINE AND GRAPE INDUSTRY, 2009

Released on 28 January 2010, <u>Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2009</u> (cat. no. 1329.0) presents a summary of statistics on grape and wine production and related activities collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as well from other sources. It is a statistical compendium of Australia's wine and grape industry containing information on: area of vines and production of grapes; wine production and grapes crushed; structure of the wine manufacturing industry; inventories of wine owned by winemakers at 30 June; domestic wine sales; exports and imports of wine. Some data is available at sub state regions for Geographical Indication (GI) zones, as well as derived zones.

Some key findings from the publication were:

- There were 1.2 billion litres of beverage wine produced in 2008-09, a decrease of 74.8 million litres (5.9%) compared with 2007-08.
- In 2008-09 domestic sales of Australian wine increased by 0.6%, from the previous financial year, to 430 million litres.
- Imports of wine into Australia rose by 16.7% to 62 million litres in 2008-09, up from 53 million litres in 2007-08.

Environment and Energy



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

RECENT RELEASES

Water Use on Australian Farms

A Socio-Economic Context for the Murray-Darling Basin

WATER USE ON AUSTRALIAN FARMS

Released on 19 April 2010, <u>Water Use on Australian Farms</u>, <u>2008-09</u> (cat. no. 4618.0) presents a range of information relating to irrigation practices on Australian farms. This includes data on the type and area of crops irrigated, the volume of water applied, and irrigation methods. Data are available at the Australia, State and Natural Resource Management region levels as well as for the Murray Darling Basin. The publication also includes estimates for 2003-04 to 2008-09. The data are based on a response rate of 88% from a sample of approximately 38,000 agricultural businesses selected for the 2008-09 Agricultural Survey.

Key data from this publication include:

- In 2008-09 the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) accounted for 38% of Australia's irrigating agricultural businesses, 53% of all irrigated agricultural land, and 54% of irrigation water applied.
- Increases in volumes of irrigation water applied in 2008-09 were recorded in the northern reaches of the MDB, with Queensland MDB up 64% and New South Wales MDB up 17%. The southern parts of the MDB however, recorded decreases in volumes of irrigation water applied in 2008-09, with Victoria MDB down 15%, and South Australia MDB down 6%.
- In 2008-09, water supplied by government or private irrigation schemes was the major source of water for agriculture in the Murray-Darling Basin, accounting for 42% of agricultural water sourced in the region. Groundwater supplied 28% of the total volume, while surface water also supplied 28%. Outside the Murray-Darling Basin, ground water was the major source of water for agriculture (40%).

Released in September 2009, this report provides a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic circumstances of people living and working in the Murray-Darling Basin. The report was prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, with input from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Bureau of Rural Sciences. It makes use of the best available regional data to describe the social and economic circumstances of people in the Basin.

The report can be found on the web site of the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

A Faster Way to Find Data for Your Region



A FASTER WAY TO FIND DATA FOR YOUR REGION

New Google map

Exploring regions using the NRP

New data in the latest edition of the NRP

Finding the NRP on the ABS website and accessing help information

On 29 April 2010 a new and improved issue of the <u>National Regional Profile</u> (NRP) was released to the ABS website. This release of the NRP is unique as it now uses a Google map based interface to make it easier to find data for more than 2,000 Regional Profiles. This edition also has new data items that will be of interest to users of regional statistics.

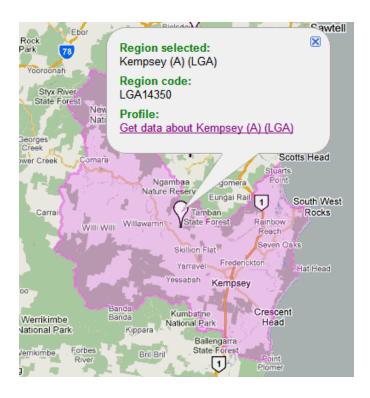
The NRP contains a range of interesting social and economic data items pulled together from ABS and non ABS sources, covering the topics of Economy, Population/People, Industry and Environment/Energy. Data is available in a 5 years time series (where available) for the period from 2004 to 2008.

This article will show how users can access a range of social and economic data using the NRP, for geographic areas such as Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas right up to the state/territory level and Australia. It will also highlight new data items included in this release and explore how the NRP can be used to analyse your region's social and economic characteristics.

New Google map

In an ABS 'first', the latest release of the NRP now has a Google map based entry point to find data on your region of interest. Users can find their region through familiar features like an address search box, or by using the map, or by picking a region from lists.

Once a region is located, a data profile containing a variety of economic and social data can be downloaded with one click of the mouse. In the example below, the Kempsey (A) Local Government Area (LGA) on the north coast of New South Wales has been selected. The shaded area shows the boundary of the region, with topographic features of the Kempsey area shown in the Google map underneath. Users can zoom in or zoom out to see more or less detail. A data profile for 'Kempsey (A) (LGA)' can be downloaded by clicking on the 'Get data about..' link in the information window.



Users can also download a detailed Excel spreadsheet of data for their region from the data profile, or compare data for regions using the SuperTABLE datacube which is accessed from the 'Compare Regions' link at the top of the NRP Welcome Page.

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Exploring regions using the NRP

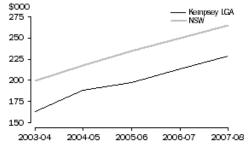
Once data for a region has been accessed it can be used to explore the characteristics of the region. Characteristics can be analysed from a particular point in time or compared over time using the 5 year time series. As mentioned above, users can also compare data for a region with other regions using the SuperTABLE datacubes (accessed from the 'Compare Regions' link).

The following example continues to use the LGA of Kempsey shown above.

In 2008, the population of Kempsey LGA had a slightly higher percentage of males (50.7%) than females (49.3%). Persons aged 0 to 14 years comprised 19.5% of the total population, and nearly a third (30.7%) were aged between 0 to 24 years. The number of births in this region remained reasonably consistent from 2004 to 2008, recording 297 in 2008.

Kempsey (along with nearby Bellingen) had the oldest vehicles in NSW in 2008 with 59% of registered vehicles over 10 years old. At this time Kempsey had 481 registered passenger vehicles and 668 total registered motor vehicles per 1000 population. Kempsey had an average taxable income in 2006-07 of \$39,275, compared to an average of \$54,742 in New South Wales. As seen in the graph below, there has been a considerable increase in the average value of private sector houses in the Kempsey LGA, increasing from \$163,100 in 2003-04 to \$228,600 in 2007-08, a rise of 40.2% over the period. The percentage increase was greater than the percentage rise in the average value of private sector houses in NSW (32.9%), which increased from \$199,100 to \$264,600 over the same period.

Average value of private sector houses



Other interesting data about the Kempsey LGA found in the NRP:

- There were 237 deaths in 2008, a fall from 244 in 2007 and the third consecutive year the figure had fallen
- In 2008 Kempsey had a higher proportion of people on Newstart Allowance for more than a year, than the proportion in NSW (69% compared with 61% respectively).
- Kempsey had 2,400 total businesses as at 30 June 2007, most of which were non-employing businesses (1,512).
- The total area of agricultural land in the Kempsey LGA for 2006 was 149,000 hectares, of which 1,000 hectares were irrigated.

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New data in the latest edition of the NRP

Some of the examples given for the Kempsey LGA are data items that are new to this issue of the NRP. New data to this issue of the NRP includes:

- Estimates of household wealth
- Age of motor vehicles
- Value of agricultural production
- Water Use on Australian farms
- Selected Government pensions and allowances

Examples of this new data for the Kempsey LGA include:

- The number of people receiving a Disability Support Pension was 2,046 in 2008.
- There were 3,219 registered motor vehicles aged less than five years in 2008, and 11,414 were ten years or older.
- The amount of water used on farms in 2006 was 6,591ML.
- The total gross value of agricultural production was \$37.6 million in 2006.

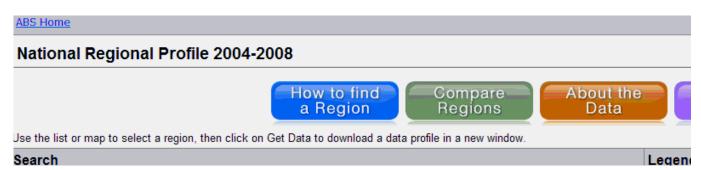
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Finding the NRP on the ABS website and accessing help information

The NRP can be accessed directly from the links on the left of the ABS Home page.



A range of updated 'help' material is available from the NRP welcome page in clearly marked coloured tabs above the map.



The first three tabs detail how to find a region, compare regions, and information about the data available in the release. The last tab, 'Videos and other Help' contains video demonstrations on how to use the NRP, information about the regions, and frequently asked questions.

Other News and Contacts



Geography Portal

ASGS: Final information paper on the design of new statistical areas

NatStats 2010

How Fit is Your Data?

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GEOGRAPHY PORTAL

On 19 March 2010, a new geography portal was released on the ABS website. This will aid users of ABS data to more easily find information about statistical geography. The Geography portal contains information about the current and future statistical geography used by the ABS, links to information that will assist in using statistics, such as classifications and digital boundaries, and 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

The geography portal is the place to find up-to-date information about the changes to statistical geography that will occur in 2011. The ABS primarily uses the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and Census geographic areas for the dissemination of statistics, but from July 2011, the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) will replace the ASGC.

The <u>Geography Portal</u> can be accessed from the 'Geography' link under the 'Classifications' heading in the 'Methods and Standards' section of the ABS website. The 'Methods and Standards' link is found in the top menu bar of the <u>ABS website</u> home page.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD: DESIGN OF THE STATISTICAL AREAS LEVEL 4, CAPITAL CITIES AND STATISTICAL AREAS LEVEL 3, MAY 2010

The Australian Bureau of Statistics intends to replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) with effect from July 2011.

The ABS has recently released the third and final information paper designed to explain aspects of the ASGS, <u>Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Design of the Statistical Areas Level 4, Capital Cities and Statistical Areas Level 3, May 2010</u> (cat. no. 1216.0.55.003). The purpose of this paper is to provide background to stakeholders regarding the Statistical Area 3s (SA3s) and 4s (SA4s) of the ASGS to facilitate consultation on their design. The paper also contains information about Capital Cities and time series.

Further input on the design of these geographies is being sought from users and submissions should be made to the ABS by no later than 5pm EST, 2 July 2010. Submissions should be sent to geography@abs.gov.au, using the words 'ASGS submission' in the title of the e-mail.

For background information on the changes to ABS geography please refer to the <u>Australian Statistical Geography Standard</u> section of the Geography Portal.

NATSTATS 2010

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is pleased to announce that Dr Ken Henry, Secretary to the Treasury, will be providing the opening Plenary address at the upcoming <u>NatStats 2010 Conference</u>.

Other key note speakers include Ms Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate, and Mr Phil Lowe, Assistant Governor (Economic) of the Reserve Bank of Australia, who will be examining some of the changes we can expect to witness in the global economy over the next 50 years. The Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop AC, Director of the Graduate School of Government at the University of Sydney, will also deliver a presentation at the conference focused around improving the wellbeing of Australians.

NatStats 2010 is an initiative of the <u>National Statistical Service</u> and will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, from 15 - 17 September 2010.

NatStats 2010 will bring together an array of leaders and high profile commentators, researchers and policy makers from all levels of government, academia, community and business. The conference was initiated to assist in the development of a collaborative approach to national statistics. It focuses on various issues surrounding quantitative and qualitative research, which have been highlighted by key government initiatives.

The overall theme of this year's conference is "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia". Delegates will discuss issues surrounding various topics including;

- 1. Challenges facing Australian society: issues, policy and information.
- 2. Australia in the global economy. Do we measure up?
- 3. Improving Australian's wellbeing.
- 4. Measuring progress: from theory to practice.

NatStats 2010 will build on the success of the first <u>NatStats conference held in 2008</u>, where around 480 delegates attended. A major outcome of the 2008 conference was the tabling of a <u>statistical declaration</u> to guide the development of a national statistical strategy for Australia in the 21st century.

An exciting program is being developed and will address a range of issues regarding national statistics. If you would like any further information, please email natstats@nss.gov.au.

HOW FIT IS YOUR DATA?

Over the past few years, the call has been put out for public policies to be informed by good evidence. Statistical information is now answering that call. Statistical information has long been recognised as being good evidence, which places it at the heart of evidence-based policy.

So, how do we get "good statistical information"? One answer is <u>DATAfitness</u>.

DATAfitness = good data management practice.

Good data management is one of the foundation stones for building a solid statistical resource for Australia. In simple terms, DATAfitness symbolises the ability to compare apples with apples or being able to compare data which has similar characteristics.

The <u>National Statistical Service</u> (NSS), a community of government agencies led by the <u>Australian Bureau of Statistics</u> (ABS), is promoting good data management practices through its DATAfitness program. DATAfitness encourages the use of statistical frameworks, principles and resources which can help data providers and users to realise the benefits of good data management.

The three key elements of DATAfitness are:

- **Metadata Management**, which describes what data is about and where it comes from. Adding metadata about data is essential for bringing data sets together and comparing information from different sources.
- Data Quality, which describes data's "fitness for purpose". Data has a range of dimensions which must

- be understood to determine whether or not data is "fit for purpose" or, put simply, whether it can be used for the desired purpose.
- Data Sharing, which describes sharing information as an important part of maximising data use and re-use. Data sharing arrangements ease the sharing of data between providers and users and support evidence-based policy and decision-making.

As part of its DATAfitness program, the NSS has developed Data Quality Online (DQO), an easy-to-use online support system for data collectors, providers and users.

DQO is the first assistant of its kind in the world and will provide clear and simple support to those involved in managing data. The system will help users to compile data quality statements and will also provide tailored guidance on statements for indicators used by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The NSS will officially launch DQO in the second half of 2010, in conjunction with the ABS. DQO is based on the nationally recognised <u>ABS Data Quality Framework</u>, which provides a consistent standard for describing the quality of data.

A preliminary version of DQO was released in March 2010, specifically for the purposes of the latest round of COAG National Agreement reporting. For further information on DQO or to take a look at the prototype, visit the <u>NSS website</u>.

The NSS has also released <u>A good practice guide to sharing your data with others</u>. The guide supports quality data sharing across agencies by offering a non-technical introduction and by providing a basic model for making data sharing agreements, which includes factors to consider and how these relate to agencies, staff and data.

For more information on DATAfitness, visit www.nss.gov.au/datafitness or email inquiries@nss.gov.au .

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ABOUT US/CONTACT US

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is produced by the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre of the ABS. This newsletter has been prepared as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Regional Statistics Program, to improve the availability of regional and small area data by leading the development of regional statistics and co-ordinating their dissemination. More information is available on the <u>ABS Regional Statistics theme page</u>.

Please send your comments or queries regarding this newsletter to regional.statistics@abs.gov.au or telephone (08) 8237 7350.

If you would like further information or data, please contact the **National Information and Referral Service** on 1300 135 070 or e-mail client.services@abs.gov.au.

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About this Release

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is a biannual newsletter about regional and small area statistics. It includes topical articles and reviews of relevant ABS publications. 'What's New in Regional Statistics' highlights developments in statistics relevant to regions, including metropolitan, urban, non-urban and rural areas, and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data.

Interested readers are invited to visit the Regional theme page on the ABS website for links to other related information.

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